

## News Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 4, 2012

Citizens to benefit by added convenience . . .

## COUNTY EXPANDS USE OF CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS AND PARTNERS WITH GOVOLUTION

**FREDERICK, MD** – The Frederick Board of County Commissioners today approved the expansion of the current practice of accepting merchant cards at county departments and agreed to a partnership with <u>Govolution</u>, an electronic payment processor.

Currently, due to merchant card company rules for governments, Frederick County accepts merchant cards in some departments and absorbs the related fees, while fees are assessed to customers in other departments. The rules can be complex and cumbersome, so to enhance the process and provide additional convenience to the public, the board approved the use of Govolution as the payment processor for both online and face-to-face transactions for tax, permits and development review payments with the related convenience fees assessed to the customer.

Board President Blaine Young commented, "The board commends our Finance Division and Treasury Department staff for their extensive research and evaluation of the ways we can better serve our citizens through electronic and in-person payments. This is an excellent example of how government should work to make things more efficient and effective for our taxpayers.

"Govolution is a company specifically designed for governments and knows the rules for various credit cards. They have proven programs in place to allow us to monitor fees to make it easier for payments. Using their service will be very beneficial and save time for our citizens."

The county will expand the acceptance of Visa, MasterCard and Discover payments for online transactions for the Department of Permits and Development Review of the Community Development Division. A customer kiosk will be situated at 30 North Market Street, Frederick, Md. for electronic payments.

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The county will also begin the process of implementing Govolution's solution for <u>Landfill</u> payments with a discount to customers who pay by cash or check. The <u>Department of Aging</u> will accept Visa, MasterCard and Discover for online and face-to-face transactions and absorb the related fees. <u>Alternative Sentencing</u> will accept Visa, MasterCard and Discover for face-to-face transactions and absorb the related fees. <u>Animal Control</u>, <u>Parks & Recreation</u> and the <u>Sheriff's Office</u> will continue to absorb the general fund supported transactions, and the <u>Division of Utilities and Solid Waste Management</u> will continue the current practice of assessing fees for water and sewer transactions.

Implementation of the project will begin in November and will continue over the next year.

The county will seek to expand the electronic payment options to other departments in the future.

For additional information, contact Treasury Department Director Dian Fox at 301-600-1114 or via email at <a href="mailto:dfox@FrederickCountyMD.gov">dfox@FrederickCountyMD.gov</a>.

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